



MEMO

TO: Southern Indiana Middle & High School Coaches
FROM: Joan Knies & Natalie Bolin
DATE: October 2006
RE: Coaching Boys Into Men

October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month! We have taken this opportunity to share the attached information with you. You are encouraged to wear or display a purple ribbon to help increase visibility of the issue.

While most men are not violent toward women, the majority have not been offered the opportunity to be part of the solution. Many men don't recognize the important role that they have to play and they have never been asked to participate. The active involvement of men is essential if we are to progress from helping some people avoid violence to actually ending it.

Today these children
saw something they'll
never forget.



They saw their father
kill their mother.

Crisis Connection Inc
24-Hour Hotline
1-800-245-4580

SAFE AT HOME!

There can be nothing more devastating to a child than abuse and violence at home. Home should be a sanctuary, a safe harbor from any storm. Yet, for many children, home is a place of danger and fear of an abusive adult.

Joe Torre knows that fear. He lived it as a child. Even in his formative years, Joe stayed away from home, fearful of his own father, who abused his mother. As Joe became a father himself, he realized that no child should have to live with that fear.

It is in that spirit, and in memory of his mother, Margaret, that the Joe Torre Safe at Home® Foundation has been established. The Foundation's guiding principle is that every child has the right to be safe at home.

Boys are swamped with influences outside of the home – from friends, the neighborhood, television, the internet, music, the movies...everything they see around them. They hear all kinds of messages about what it means to “be a man” – that they have to be tough and in control. There are numerous conflicting and some harmful messages being given to boys about what constitutes ‘being a man’ in a relationship.

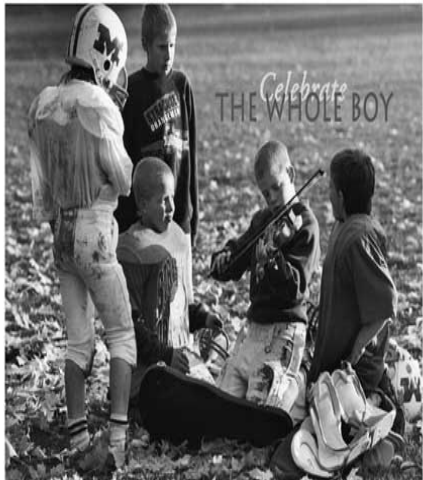
Boys need positive male role models. They watch men in their lives, they witness how men relate to women, and they model these behaviors and attitudes toward women and girls.

What You Can Do

The boys in your life need your time and energy. The boys you teach, coach and mentor. All need you to help them grow into healthy young men. Boys need your advice on how to behave toward girls. Boys are watching how you and other men relate to women to figure out their own stance towards females. So teach boys early, and teach them often, that there is no place for violence in a relationship.

Did you know that...

"More people falsely report their own death
than file a false report alleging sexual assault."
(Federal Bureau of Investigation)



Here's How:

Teach Early. It's never too soon to talk to a child about violence. Let him know how you think he should express his anger and frustration – and what is out of bounds. Talk with him about what it means to be fair, share and treat others with respect. Hang awareness posters in visible areas – these posters should include female role models as well as male. Educate about gender issues and about media awareness.

Be There. If it comes down to one thing you can do, this is it. Just being with boys is crucial. The time doesn't have to be spent in activities. Boys will probably not say this directly – but they want a male presence around them, even if few words are exchanged.

Listen. Hear what he has to say. Listen to how he and his friends talk about girls. Ask him if he's ever seen abusive behavior at home or with his friends. Is he worried about any of his classmates who are being hurt in their relationships? Are any of his friends hurting themselves or anyone else? Is he playing videogames – if so, what kind?

Tell Him How. Teach him ways to express his anger without using violence. When he gets mad, tell him he can walk it out, talk it out, and take time out or journal. Let him know he can always come to you if he feels things are getting out of hand. Try to give him examples of what you might say or do in situations that could turn violent. Watch your words, (i.e. "You play like your Mom." Or "You throw like a girl.")

Bring It Up. A male will probably never approach you and ask for your guidance on how to treat women. But that doesn't mean he doesn't need it. Try watching TV with him or listening to his music. If you see or hear things that depict violence against women, tell him what you think about it. Never hesitate to let him know you don't approve of sports figures that demean women, or jokes and song lyrics that do the same. And when it comes to dating, be sure he knows that treating girls with respect is important. Be sure he knows that he shouldn't use male privilege or take advantage of his 'status' as an athlete to manipulate people.

Be A Role Model. Fathers, coaches and any man who spends time with boys or teens will have the greatest impact when they 'walk the talk'. They will learn what respect means by observing how you treat other people. So make respect a permanent way of dealing with people – when you're driving in traffic, talking with customer service reps, in restaurants with wait staff, and with your family around the dinner table. He's watching what you say and do and takes his cues from you, both good and bad. Be aware of how you express your anger. Let him know how you define a healthy relationship and always treat females in a way that boys in your life can admire.

Teach Often. Your job isn't done once you get the first talk out of the way. Help him work through problems in relationships as they arise. Let him know he can come back and talk to you again anytime. Make sure he also knows of other community resources that he can go to. Use every opportunity to reinforce the message that violence has no place in life.

Violence is a way of asserting power, privilege, and control. Men perpetrate the majority of violence, and yet this issue is usually framed as a "woman's issue." Change will come when men challenge the social norms and institutions that actively or implicitly condone and promote violence.



FACT: 63% Of Young Men Ages 11-20 Years Of Age Who Are Serving Time For Homicide Have Killed Their Mother's Abuser (Typically Their Father)

Help Stop The Generational Cycle Of Violence!

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING AVAILABLE!

Our agency offers a variety of free educational programming. Topics include: Predatory Drugs, Date Rape, Media Awareness and Health Relationships. Don't hesitate to contact us to schedule a session and/or receive materials for your team. You can reach us at 482-1555 (Jasper), 649-2303 (Rockport), or 547-8878 (Tell City).

More information is available on our website (www.crisisconnectioninc.org)

SAVE THE DATE!

We will be hosting
"A Few Good Men"
workshop facilitated
by Jackson Katz
on
March 19, 2007!

Crisis Connection

**Sexual & Domestic
Violence
24-Hour Hotline
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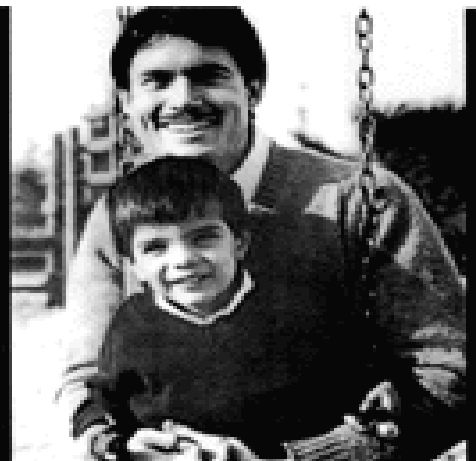
NO EXCUSE



**HE WOULDN'T
HURT A FLEA
BUT HE PUT
HIS WIFE
IN A COMA**

WHETHER YOU ARE AN ABUSER OR
ABUSED YOU CAN

STOP THE CYCLE OF VIOLENCE.



WHAT MEN CAN DO TO HELP STOP VIOLENCE!

- **Wear** or display a White Ribbon!
The purpose of this campaign is for males to take responsibility for working to end men's violence against women.
(www.whiteribbon.com)
- **Check out** the "Men's Section" at
www.crisisconnectioninc.org
- **Become** more media savvy! Again, check out www.crisisconnectioninc.org to learn how media affects society in regard to sexism, power and control.
- **Oppose** sexual harassment wherever it exists.
- **Learn** more about the problem of sexual assault and domestic violence such as
(www.jacksonkatz.com;
www.mencanstoprape.org;
www.endabuse.org; www.ncvc.org;
www.ncmec.org)
- **Research** the facts and contact your legislators. Speak out in your community.
- **Insure** that you have visited the Indiana Sex Offender Registry at
www.indianasheriffs.org
- **Donate** your time, treasure and talent to groups working to end violence. Make a difference today!

VIOLENCE IS ALWAYS A CHOICE.

How Do YOU Use Your Strength?

Accountability	Support	Trust
Respect	Responsibility	Honesty
Partnership	Negotiation	Fairness



He says
it won't
happen
again

REASONS MEN HAVE GIVEN US TO BECOME INVOLVED:

- Violence hurts our daughters, sisters, mothers, and aunts- we need to take a stand against it.
- Violence hurts us too-some of us have suffered from violence and sexual abuse, and many men have suffered emotionally, in relationships, and spiritually from the limited notions of what it means to be a man.
- Many of us grow up with the idea that we have to be tough and aggressive to be a "real man." But this thinking robs us of our ability to be whole men. We don't need that kind of "real man"-we need real relationships with the people we care about and real peace in our families and communities.
- If we are not part of the solution to violence, we are part of the problem. Our silence makes us complicit.
- When men get involved in trying to prevent gender-based violence, we are also helping to solve other social and health problems, such as impoverished single-parent families, high incarceration rates, and sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS. Sexual harassment, domestic violence, and rape all directly or indirectly contribute to these problems, so taking a stand against this violence will create healthier communities for all of us.
- Gender-based violence has tremendous economic costs for our society, such as the costs of medical care, loss of work, and law enforcement. These costs can motivate some men to get involved in prevention.
- Violence is about power and oppression. Gender-based violence is about maintaining the privilege men have over women and straight men have over gay men. Many other forms of privilege and inequality are related to this gender-based inequality: white people over people of color, adults over youth, native-born people over immigrants, for example. Challenging gender-based violence is an important way for men to challenge oppression as a whole, including the oppression they suffer.

Game Stats From WWW.NCAVA.ORG:

- ☹ A 3 year study shows that while male student-athletes comprise 3.3% of the population, they represent 19% of sexual assault perpetrators and 35% of domestic violence perpetrators. (Benedict/Crosset Study)
- ☹ One in three college sexual assaults are committed by athletes. (Benedict/Crosset Study)
- ☹ In the three years before 1998, an average of 1000 charges were brought against athletes each year. (Benedict/Crosset Study)
- ☹ In 1995, while only 8.5% of the general population was charged with assault, 36.8% of athletes were charged with assault. (Benedict/Crosset Study)
- ☹ The general population has a conviction rate of 80%. The conviction rate of an athlete is 38%. (Benedict/Crosset Study) The most common penalties employed by four-year (residential) institutions include expulsion, suspension, and administrative actions such as no-contact orders. (US Dept. of Justice Study on Campus Sexual Assault)
- ☹ 84% of the public believes colleges should revoke the scholarship of a player convicted of a crime. (ESPN SportsZone Poll)

EVERY GIRL EVERY BOY

For every girl that is tired of acting weak when she is strong,
there is a boy tired of appearing strong when he feels vulnerable.

For every boy who is burdened with the constant expectation of knowing
everything, there is a girl tired of people not trusting her intelligence.

For every girl who is tired of being called over-sensitive,
there is a boy who fears to be gentle, to weep.

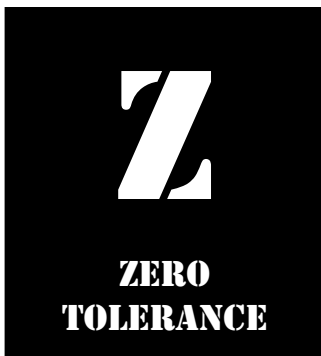
For every boy for whom competition
is the only way to prove his masculinity,
there is a girl who is called unfeminine when she competes.

For every girl who throws out an E-Z bake oven,
there is a boy who wishes to find one.

For every boy struggling not to let advertising dictate his desires,
there is a girl facing the ad industry's attacks on her self-esteem.

For every girl who takes a step toward her liberation,
there is a boy who finds the way to freedom a little easier.

From: *Tools For Change Catalog*, www.syrcculturalworkers.com
Poster P586CW Text by Crimethinc



Some men break more than
their girlfriends' hearts.
A bad relationship can hurt more than your feelings.

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH IS ENOUGH IS ENOUGH